

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00 A-01 M-02

OPR-02 CU-05 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 IO-14 OC-06

CCO-00 DRC-01 /170 W

----- 122722

R 151425Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2727

IMXO RUESFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON 1483

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0571

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY AND RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: EXPLOSIONS IN LOURENCO MARQUES

1. TWO EXPLOSIONS IN EARLY HOURS JULY 14 ALARMED LOURENCO MARQUES RESIDENTS. FIRST, AT 0045 HOURS, WAS EXPLODED ON PAVEMENT NEAR LEFTIST STUDENT HEADQUARTERS, SECOND WAS AT 0220 HOURS IN FRONT OF 350 JOAO DE BARROS, IN RESIDENTIAL AREA OF EXCLUSIVE SOMMERSCHIELD DISTRICT (ONE STREET OVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND 200 YARDS UP FROM RESIDENCE CONGEN POLITICAL/ECONOMIC

OFFICER). BOTH EXPLOSIONS SHATTERED WINDOWS, AND CRACKED SOME TERRACES IN ADJOINING HOUSES (AT LEAST SIX HOUSES AFFECTED IN JOAO DE BARROS BLAST) BUT NO PERSONAL INJURIES REPORTED.

2. DURING PAST TWO MONTHS HALF A DOZEN UNEXPECTED EXPLOSIONS, MOSTLY NOCTURNAL, HAVE STARTLED LAURENTINOS. A FEW HAVE BEEN GIVEN "EXPLANATIONS" IN PRESS; ONE WAS ATTRIBUTED TO FISHING BOAT BACKFIRE, ANOTHER (ALSO ON RUA JOAO DE BARROS) TO CHILDREN PLAYING WITH CHEMICALS. OTHERS WERE NEVER EXPLAINED, AND NO DAMAGE OR INJURIES WERE REPORTED.

3. SUNDAY'S BLASTS NOT YET EXPLAINED, THOUGH LEFTIST NOTICIAS SAYS INVESTIGATORS SUSPECT "REACTIONARY MANEUVERS," A NOTION SUPPORTED BY SITE OF FIRST BLAST NEAR HAUNT OF PRO-FRELIMO STUDENTS. ONE CANNOT RULE OUT, HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY OF LEFTWING ATTEMPT DISCREDIT "REACTIONARIES". SO FAR EXPLOSIONS DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE HAD LETHAL INTENT BUT APPARENT LACK OF PERSONAL INJURIES TO DATE CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED LUCK.

4. COMMENT: INCIDENTS WILL INCREASE TENSION IN LOURENCO MARQUES, AND ANTICIPATED SENSATIONAL REPORTING IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS IS LIKELY PUT FURTHER DAMPENER ON ALREADY DISASTROUS TOURIST SEASON HERE.
REED

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